

To Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski, Commissioners Michael Copps, Mignon Clyburn and Robert McDowell,

Unfortunately the future of the Internet as an open platform is under threat. With Comcast v. FCC the FCC's authority to protect it is jeopardized. With Citizens United our democracy can be bought and paid for by corporations influencing our elections, and with AT&T v. Concepcion forced arbitration can become a reality in consumer disputes between companies as filing class action lawsuits becomes harder thanks to the ruling.

Corporate telecom giants like AT&T want to discriminate online and media moguls like Rupert Murdoch want to control what news and information is available on the Internet to be able to spread his propaganda, fear and misinformation to people who would be unable to turn to a credible source for verifiable information. His GOP allies are attacking public broadcasting threatening to de-fund public media outlets like NPR and PBS and want to abolish Net Neutrality so individual free speech online can be censored, and corporations can control the flow of communications and information online.

Unfortunately in ruling after ruling by the U.S. D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and U.S. Supreme Court corporations have been given tremendous amounts of new power. In Comcast v. FCC the D.C. Circuit struck down the FCC's authority to use Title I ancillary authority to regulate broadband providers and enforce Network Neutrality rules to protect the free and open Internet so fear the FCC's attempt last December to pass new rules using Title I would get thrown out in court. They got Comcast v. FCC, making it harder for the FCC to protect the open internet with Net Neutrality rules, Citizens United v. FEC striking down campaign finance law, and AT&T v. Concepcion making it HARDER FOR CONSUMERS TO BAND TOGETHER in CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS and easier for corporations to require forced arbitration in contracts.

In Citizens United v. FEC the Supreme Court ruled that corporations are people and said because of their personhood they have a free speech right to buy elections. This was a tragic and unfortunate ruling striking down campaign finance reform law by suggesting money is speech and corporations should be able to spend unlimited amounts to influence elections. However, it's only the tip of the iceberg. They also ruled in AT&T v. Concepcion to make filing consumer class action lawsuits harder and make it easier for corporations to force consumers signing contracts into accepting forced arbitration to resolve disputes.

This worries me greatly. Going back to Network Neutrality I worry that the free and open internet may come to an end if the FCC lacks the authority to implement and enforce strong rules and/or lacks the will to enact and enforce them.

Already corporations have won so many victories over the public interest and if we don't stop them -- are determined to break up labor unions, concentrate wealth and power, disenfranchise voters they don't want to be able to vote by having Republicans in state legislatures and governorships pass voter ID or voter suppression laws that by the way violate the Voting Rights Act. If they ultimately prevail America is headed for a Second Gilded Age. We cannot let them get away with this. Peaceful protesters of the Occupy Wall Street movement and Occupy protests in cities all across the country

(that have gone international also) need a free and open internet to communicate and organize their protests.

If their individual free speech online is silenced -- that is if they are censored and corporations can discontinue their internet to stop them from using the Internet to plan protests they would be deprived of their voice. That is unfair and not right at all.

Former President FDR once said of the business and financial monopolies, war profiteers, reckless speculators the following "We had to deal with the old enemies of peace business and financial monopoly, class antagonists, war profiteers, reckless bankers, financial speculators who had begun to consider the Government of the United States as an appendage of their interests. We know now that government by organized money is just as dangerous as government by organized mob." We must overturn Citizens United and AT&T v. Concepcion and the FCC must re-assert its authority over broadband using Title II of the Telecommunications Act. It won't be easy our opponents thanks to the Citizens United ruling can spend big bucks to defeat political candidates who stand up to them and for the public interest but we have Netizens united for individual free speech, and open universal access to the Internet. If the FCC fails though to protect Network Neutrality the Federal Trade Commission must step up to the plate to do so.

Sincerely,

Mr. Maneesh Pangasa  
3562 South 18th Avenue  
Yuma AZ 85365-3937  
(928) 446-8999